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EXAMINER

FISCHER, JUSTIN R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1791

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Continuation of 3: Applicant has amended the claims to limit the amount of overhang between 15 and 20 millimeters and limit the intermediate elongation between 3.5 and 5.5%. The previously drafted claims, however, were significantly broader with respect to each limitation and thus, it is evident that the amended claims would require further search and consideration.

Continuation of 11: As to Reuter, applicant asserts that an "overlapped" structure is generally understood to mean to coincide partially or wholly and is distinct from terms such as overhang or protrude. A fair reading of Reuter would have suggested a degree of overlap of at least 5 mm, as required by the pending claims. Applicant's arguments regarding the amended claim language are not commensurate in scope with the pending claims (response is applicable to both Reuter and Hirai).

Applicant's arguments with respect to the intermediate elongation are concerned with the amended claim language and thus are similarly not commensurate in scope with the pending claim language.

Regarding Nishizawa, it is agreed that the distance between a belt layer and a carcass layer is not necessarily the same as the distance between a belt layer and belt reinforcement layer. However, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have recognized the values of Nishizawa as being consistent with (on the order of) the separation of reinforcement elements between tire belt layers and adjacent tire layers (whether they be adjacent belt layers or carcass layers). It is further noted that

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applicant has not provided a conclusive showing of unexpected results to establish a criticality for the claimed cord to cord distance.

Justin Fischer

/Justin R Fischer/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1791